

# **DC Bicycle Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**September 11, 2002**

### **Members in attendance:**

Rudi Schreiber  
Dan Barry  
James Koski  
Chris Craig  
Amy Nevel  
Conrad Smith  
Lyn Stoesen  
Bill Schultheiss  
Lt. Patrick Burke  
Raymon Murchison  
Jim Sebastian

The meeting began with a moment of silence moment of silence to recognize the anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

**1) Quorum Call** -- quorum reached at 8:08

### **2) Approval of minutes from July**

Chris Craig asked what the "not-so-pleasant" reference to the Safe Streets Campaign notation was about. Jim explained that the police received some negative feedback when handing out citations, such as, "Don't you have anything better to do."

Amy Nevel wants "review and approve" to be added to the process concerning legislative recommendations made to the Mayor. Ms. Nevel also reminded the BAC that there was discussion concerning members violating their attendance requirements to be a part of the BAC. Jim indicated that he will check the by-laws and inform the missing members of their responsibilities.

### **3) View from the City Council:**

Aaron Holbert with Chairman Schwartz's office presented an overview of work being done by the Committee on Public Works and the Environment:

- a) Segway. Hearings have been held and legislation is moving forward to permit the segway on sidewalks except in the CBD (like bikes).
- b) Bike messenger identification and licensing. There is a law in place requiring licensing, but it's never been implemented. The Council is looking into ways to make it easier to monitor and enforce messenger regulations. Call Aaron at 202-724-8925 with recommendations.
- c) Helmet requirements. The Council is has introduced legislation to require helmet use by children under 16 on scooters and in-line skates and is soliciting testimony on the subject.
- b) Bike registration. Chairman Schwartz is concerned that the current process is inadequate, and is looking for advice on how to improve the system.

Ms. Nevel suggested bringing these issues into the Legislative Committee, especially messenger registration and bike registration. Jim indicated that he has been working with Aaron to find ways to deal with bike registration and messenger regulation. Jim also indicated that he is in discussions to explore increasing bike fines to make them more substantial.

Mr. Schreiber asked if these items will be pursued this leg session or in subsequent sessions. Aaron indicated that the Segway and bike messenger work is imminent but that bike registration overhaul is further off.

#### **4) Capitol Bicycle Access Resolution:**

James Koski handed out copies of the resolution. Koski handed out remarks made by Congressman Blumenauer on the topic. The resolution requests that the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police work with the city to resolve short and long-term issues related to bike access on the Hill. The resolution was approved by the Council.

#### **5) Project Review - Thomas Circle:**

Designers are trying to figure out how to incorporate bikes in the redesign of Thomas Circle. Traffic circles present problems due to conflicting movements. Jim is looking at two options--a bike lane on the outside of the circle, or eliminating the lane and installing bike symbols in the right (outside) lane as a means of indicating to bikes and cars where the cyclists are supposed to be. The BAC broke into two groups to work on the design.

After the separate groups met, it appeared that the consensus of both groups was to eliminate the lanes and instead put "bike in the house" pavement symbols in the outside lane of the circle to designate that lane as the place for bikes. Advanced bike signals were also discussed as a way to give bikes a head start into the circle. Lt. Burke expressed concern that whatever we do be uniform in the District, and region-wide if possible.

#### **6) Met Branch Trail Update**

Chris Holben provided the update. The alignment study through Takoma DC is almost complete. Right-of-way work on the rest of the trail continues in preparation for purchasing land for the trail. DDOT is developing a scope of work for the design of entire remaining trail.

## **7) Other Business**

Mr. Sebastian indicated that the Bike Plan contract is being signed this week. He pointed out the listing of bike rack locations, and indicated that Wards 7 and 8 have fewer locations than other parts of the city and asked for suggestions for these wards and elsewhere.